

January 21, 2024

Saint Matthew Catholic Church

Welcome!

*We welcome into our parish community all visitors,
new members, old friends and those returning home to us.*

*And Jesus said,
"Know that I am with you always,
until the end of time."*

Matthew 28:20

Wednesday Night Oasis 6-8pm

Jan. 24th—Adoration only, no confessions

St. Matthew Catholic Church

9111 90th Avenue
Largo, FL 33777

Phone (727) 393-1288
Fax (727) 398-2683

Website: www.stmat.org
E-Mail: Info@stmat.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:30am-4:00pm
Friday 9:30am-12:00pm

Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Emery

Deacons

Deacon Tim Maloney (seasonal)
Deacon Tony Quattrocker

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am

Holy Days: Will be announced

Monday - Saturday 8:30am

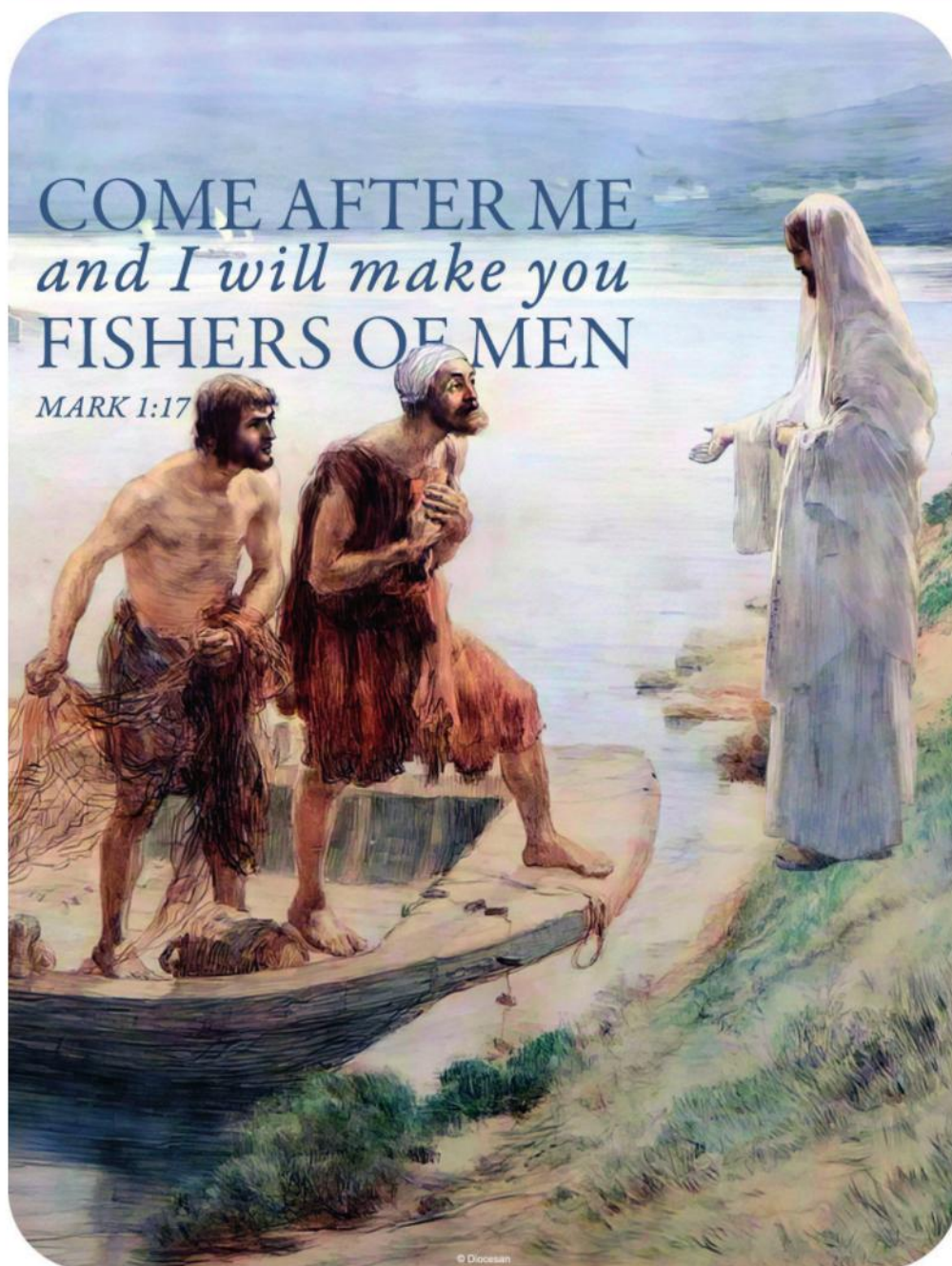
Rosary: Monday - Saturday 8:00am

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 9am-10am
Wednesday 6pm-8pm
or by appointment through
the parish office.

Adoration

Saturday 9am-10:30am
Wednesday 6pm-8pm
First Friday 9am-10am



COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*



A Message from Fr. Jonathan

Continuing the overview of the Church's administrative structure from last week...the fourth level is the "Province." These function very similarly to the way deaneries work for parishes, but are groupings of dioceses instead of parishes. The province is always named after the "metropolitan diocese" or more commonly referred to as the "Archdiocese" and it is presided over by the Archbishop. We are in the "Province of Miami" which contains the 7 diocese of the state of Florida...Archdiocese of Miami, Diocese of Venice, Diocese of St. Petersburg, Diocese of Palm Beach, Diocese of Orlando, Diocese of St. Augustine, and Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee (All diocese are named after the city where there Cathedral is; P-T has two "co-cathedrals" because the plan is to split them into two different diocese once the Catholic population grows large enough to support it). Just like a dean, the Archbishop cannot issue orders to the bishops of his province, but he does preside over meetings as they decide things for their province. The province also doesn't have its own resources or offices, any minor costs are absorbed by the dioceses of the province. The bishops primarily use the province to coordinate any messages that require unity across the state, typically either a statement to their people or when they need to push a legal issue with the state legislature and governor.

The Fifth level of administration are national conferences. Some nations are too small to have their own national conference, and those will often be gathered into groups with other nations near them. We are in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (generally shown as the USCCB). Except in very particular cases, the USCCB cannot issue orders to a Bishop, but like the province they get together to present a united front on national issues that affect the Catholic Church. Unlike the province, the USCCB does have its own resources. Each member diocese pays a small fee each year to cover the maintenance of their central offices in Washington DC (near the Catholic University of America, across the street from the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception).

The final level of administration is the Vatican in Rome, which is headed by the Bishop of Rome (more commonly known as "The Pope") and contains different Dicastries and Offices. It is paid for through the annual "Peter's Pence" Collection taken up in every parish in the world, as well as pilgrim/tourist money visiting the sites at the Vatican itself. They are responsible for managing and responding to issues of the entire Global Catholic Church, including appointing new bishops. Most Dicastries are headed by Cardinals (which is simply the title given to those who can vote in the conclaves to elect the next Pope, any authority a Cardinal has comes not from the title, but from whatever his assignment is). Most Cardinals are also Archbishops, but this isn't always the case.

God bless you!

~ *Fr. Jonathan Emery*

Readings for the Week of January 21, 2024

Sunday

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9;
1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Monday

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20, 21-22,
25-26; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday

Memorial of Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr and Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps 24:7, 8,
9, 10; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-
30; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday

Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps
117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

Friday

Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-2a,
2b-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday

Memorial of Saint Angela Merici, Virgin

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-13,
14-15, 16-17; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9; 1
Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 20

4:00pm Jesse Rodriguez

Sunday, January 21

7:30am People of the Parish

9:00am Fr. Basil Samra +

11:00am Bob Lima +

Monday, January 22

8:30am Linda Lou Clark +

Tuesday, January 23

8:30am Nilda Zecca +

Wednesday, January 24

8:30am Rudy Masi, Jr. +

Thursday, January 25

8:30am Diane Martinez +

Friday, January 26

8:30am Bill & Jan Swengros

Saturday, January 27

8:30am Damyanti Dodia +

4:00pm Joan Powers +

Sunday, January 28

7:30am Dan Hommel +

9:00am People of the Parish

11:00am Bill & Barbara

Loufman +

*Contact the parish
office at (727) 393-1288
to have flowers offered in
loving memory or in
honor of a loved one.*

The Deacon's Corner



From time to time I look back at my prayer journals from years gone by. (If you don't have a prayer journal I strongly suggest that you start one. I would be happy to share with you how to use this effective prayer aid.) I am sure I am not alone in remembering a prayer conversation that goes like this: **"Dear Lord, if you can do THIS for me then I promise to do THIS in return."** I am not even sure I would consider this a sincere prayer request. Praying like this is not a sign of a faithful, maturing Christian. We are misdirected when we tell God our wants, needs and desires with conditions, instead of ending with a plea for God to lead and we will follow. This might be understandable when we were little children but as maturing faithful disciples our prayers and petitions should never be requests with strings attached. This is where we choose pride over humility. We are not humbling ourselves or surrender anything when we pray like this. We can be so convinced that we know exactly what we need and desire that our heart, mind and spirit are closed to God's Grace and Love.

As we start this New Year, why not ask yourself, "When will I open my heart fully to God and follow His will through my daily life?" We should all come to realize we need to stop praying with conditions or bargaining with God. Have courage and come to God with an open heart and empty, open hands. Try not to have a hidden agenda or offer empty promises. Be open, honest trusting with God and be receptive to His response. Amen!

God Bless you along the Journey!

Deacon Tony



Magnificat of St. Petersburg, a Ministry to Women,

Invites you to a Magnificat Meal

Saturday, February 17, 2024 9:30 AM to 12:15 PM

Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle
5815 Fifth Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Reservations—\$18.00
Check payable to
"Magnificat"

Join us for St. Jude's Parish Mass at 8:15 AM

Speaker: Bishop Gregory L. Parkes

If you are looking to refresh and renew your spirit, come to the Magnificat morning which is filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit. We will feed you physically with a hot breakfast, and spiritually with prayer and the rosary, words from Fr. Ralph D'Elia, our spiritual advisor, and praise & worship led by Francesca Ani. Your morning will culminate with testimony of our beloved Shepherd, who will share his story of hearing God's call, giving his Fiat (like Mary), and using his gifts to build & bless our Church!



Please mail your check, payable to Magnificat, to our treasurer, Linda Barron, 6069 Second Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Checks must be received by February 10, 2024. Your ticket will be at the door. Send your check early-seating is limited.

Questions or Need More Information? E-mail magnificatofstpetersburg@gmail.com or text Jane at 727-452-7404 or Linda at 727-415-2693.

Catholic Ministry Appeal Weekly Update

Thank you to all who supported the Catholic Ministry Appeal in 2023! We exceeded our goal thanks to your generosity!

Goal: \$83,997.65

Pledges: \$103,719.77

Donations: \$103,244.74

of Families: 718

of Gifts: 262

Avg. Pledge: \$395.88

Parish Weekly Giving Summary

Thank you for your faithful donations that support our church!

January 7, 2024

Offertory: \$7046.00

Online Giving: \$6789.31

TOTAL: \$13,835.31



Online Giving: Visit
www.stmat.org/donate or
scan the QR code below for
online giving. It's simple and
convenient!



Catholic Ministry Appeal

The Catholic Ministry Appeal supports the ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Your donation in 2024 helps make possible all the good works of the Diocese, such as Catholic Charities, Catholic education, faith formation, education and support of our seminarians, and the faithful support of our clergy, religious, and all who serve the Church.

Voter Registration

If you're not registered to vote, here's your chance! The Pinellas County Elections Office will have a Voter's Registration table set up outside the main entrance to the church after all the Masses on Sunday, January 28th.



Congratulations to the Knights of Columbus Family of the Month for December, Anne & Paul Knupke! Anne schedules & trains the Eucharistic Ministers, Paul schedules and trains the Lectors and is also responsible for all things IT at the parish. We appreciate all you do!

Upcoming Events

- ♦ **January 24:** Wednesday Night Oasis—This week there will be no confessions, adoration only
- ♦ **January 25:** Shawl Ministry meets in Conference Room at 11am
- ♦ **January 25:** Funeral for Jack Becker at 11am
- ♦ **January 28:** Voter Registration after all Sunday Masses
- ♦ **February 11:** Knights Pancake Breakfast after all Sunday Masses
- ♦ **February 14:** Ash Wednesday: Mass at 8:30am, 4pm, 7pm; Prayer Services at 7am & 12pm.
- ♦ **February 14:** Empty Bowl Supper 4-7pm in Bethany Hall
- ♦ **February 16:** Every Friday of Lent, 6pm Stations of the Cross followed by a Soup Supper in Bethany Hall
- ♦ **February 23-26:** Save the date for the Light of the World Retreat!



GriefShare

GriefShare at St. Matthew Catholic Church will begin a new cycle on **Wednesday, February 14**. Meetings are held in Trinity Hall, 9:30am to 11:30am. GriefShare is a 13 session program, and you may join at any time. There is no fee, although a free will donation would be gratefully accepted to help offset the cost of materials. All are welcome!

We watch a video and then have a discussion. No one has to speak, but everyone has a chance to share if and when they are ready.

Please register with Dr. Lori Puterbaugh at drloriputerbaugh@earthlink.net or sign up online at GriefShare.org. Just enter our zip code, 33777, to find our group!

Do you know someone who could benefit from GriefShare? Please invite them to join us, and, if possible, come with them to provide support the first time. It can be very difficult to go to a grief support group. Thank you!

Many churches in the area sponsor GriefShare groups. No matter which church, the program is the same! If our day and time don't work, but you feel GriefShare could help, please go to www.griefshare.org and entering your zip code to find groups near you.

All Women Are Invited to
S.E.A.S.O.N.S. (Sisters Encouraging And
Sharing **ON** Scriptures) Next 8-Week Study
DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD
Beginning Jan. 29 | 6:50 pm

Books & Video Access
is \$24.99

Register at
KarenHoltzEberts@Gmail.com



SEASONS

Next Monday night, Jan. 29th at 6:50 p.m. SEASONS will have a **Meet and Greet** in Bethany Hall. Come and learn about our "sisterhood," as we introduce our 8 week study, *"Discerning the Voice of God."* All women are invited to join us! If you haven't already registered, email Karen at Karenholtzeberts@gmail.com, or call 393-0805 and leave a message this weekend, on how to order your book in time for our start date!

Pray for Peace

Men's Bible Fellowship



Men's Bible Fellowship

An invitation to all men of the parish: We welcome you to join our small group of men who share friendship and a desire to grow in understanding of how we live out our faith daily. It doesn't matter whether you have studied scripture in the past or have never read the Bible. All that matters is a desire to be open to God's leading. We meet Monday evenings at 7pm by Skype. Contact Jim Dodson for the link or for more information at 727-439-0165 or email jwdodson2@gmail.com

LINKED

LINKED is a ministry linking widowed and divorced women to create a network of friendships. They meet monthly for social gatherings. They go out to dinner to celebrate birthdays, meet for games, and to do crafts. Please call the parish office at 727-393-1288 to be connected to this wonderful group of women.

2023 Tax Statement

If you would like to receive a statement of donations for the year 2023, please complete the form below and return it to the parish office or in the offertory at Mass. If you would like your statement emailed to you, please include your email address or email us at info@stmat.org.

Please **PRINT** the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____



St. Vincent de Paul Society

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." As disciples, we are called to continue God's work on earth. Taking care of God's poor is indeed living gospel values.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist many families with utility and other bills. Thank you and may God Bless You!



Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

- 1/21 • Rev. Alan Weber ~
- 1/22 • Rev. Timothy Williford ~
- 1/23 • Ricky Armstrong, Seminarian ~
- 1/24 • For Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life ~
- 1/25 • Rev. Michael O'Brien ~
- 1/26 • Rev. Cosmas Amadi ~
- 1/27 • Rev. Lucius Amarillas, OSBB ~



Sacraments and Ministries



BAPTISM of INFANTS:

The Sacrament of Baptism celebrates God's love and initiates us into the community of believers called the Church. For Baptism preparation classes for parents, contact the parish office: (727) 393-1288. We recommend attending before the birth of your child.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:

Call the office at any time in case of serious sickness. If you are hospitalized, the priest assigned to the hospital will administer the sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Call the office a minimum of six months in advance.

SACRAMENTS FOR ADULTS:

R.C.I.A. is for adults and unbaptized teens wanting to be Catholic Christians. Please contact Lisa Limberger at (727) 393-1288 ext. 204.

SACRAMENTS FOR TEENS:

CONFIRMATION for baptized teens wanting to receive this Sacrament. Please contact Youth Ministry, Lisa Limberger at (727) 393-1288 ext. 204.

SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN:

First Communion and

Reconciliation

for baptized children ages 7 and older. Please contact Marissa Miranda at (727) 393-1288, ext. 207.



MEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP:

Meets Mondays at 7pm via Skype. Contact Jim Dodson at 727-439-0165 or jwdodson2@gmail.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

The Knights of Columbus St. Matthew Council #11226, extends an invitation to all Catholic men to join our council. The council meets the First Tuesday of the month. If you are interested in hearing more about the Knights of Columbus, please contact Ben Kristoff at 727-218-7729.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

SOCIETY: Assistance to those in need. Calls are monitored and returned daily. Phone 727-592-1960.

PROJECT HUNGER: Bring your non-perishable food item donations for the interfaith food pantry we help.

CENTERING PRAYER:

Centering Prayer is a form of silent contemplation practiced both as a part of a group and in our daily lives. We meet in the church for silent prayer and a short video. We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Please feel free to come join us. Contact Judi Valori through the parish office if you have any questions.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY:

Meets at 6:30pm the third Tuesday of every month September through May. We welcome new members!

LINKED MINISTRY:

Meets monthly for widows and divorced women to connect. Contact the office for more information.

SICK OR HOMEBOUND:

Please contact the parish office if you, or a family member, would like to be included in our weekly prayer list. If you are unable to attend Mass, let us know if you would like to schedule a visit from a Eucharistic Minister.

VOCATIONS:

Contact Fr. Chuck Dornquist for more information at (727) 345-3452 or spvocation@dosp.org.

Have You Registered as a Member of St. Matthew?

To register as a member:

1. Online at www.stmat.org
2. New Member Info Packets are by the exits of the church.
3. Come to the Parish Office, weekdays and fill out a form.
4. Call the parish office at (727) 393-1288 to register.

Parish Staff

Clergy:

Rev. Jonathan Emery (ext. 205)

FrJonathan@StMat.org

Deacon Tony Quattrochi (ext. 203)

Deacon.Tony@stmat.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation:

Marissa Miranda (ext. 207)

Marissa.Miranda@StMat.org

Youth & Family Ministry:

Lisa Limberger (ext. 204)

Lisa.Limberger@StMat.org

Music Ministry: Chantal Ward

Office Manager:

Mandy Rose (ext. 201)

Mandy.Rose@StMat.org

Bookkeeper:

Bill Slatic

bookkeeper@stmat.org

Maintenance Staff:

Joe LaFrazia

Ged Roman

Dr. Lori Puterbaugh: Counseling

Dr. Lori Puterbaugh, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, is available for individual, couple and family counseling on a sliding scale fee basis at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church Mondays and Tuesdays, and at St. Matthew Catholic Church Wednesdays and Thursdays. Dr. Lori has been in private practice since 1999 and commissioned by the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute of our diocese. Her background includes Catholic school counseling, and work with several Diocesan ministries. Specialty areas are anxiety, depression, grief, parenting, marriage/relationship, life stage/phase issues and stress. To set an appointment, please call 727-559-0863.

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Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Commissioned in Lay Pastoral Ministry, DOSP

St. Matthew Catholic Church, Seminole &
Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, Safety Harbor

727-559-0863

DrLoriPuterbaugh@Earthlink.net
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